AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Previously presented) A resin-coated sand comprising:

a refractory granular aggregate, and

a coating on the surface of the granular aggregate formed of a thermosetting resin and a thermoplastic resin, wherein the thermoplastic resin is at least one of polyethylene, polypropylene, polyethylene glycol, polyamide, polymethyl methacrylate and polystyrene; and

wherein the thermoplastic resin can be at least partially removed from the resin-coated sand by heating the resin-coated sand at 200°C for 1 to 7 hours.

2. (Currently amended) The resin-coated sand according to claim 1, wherein the coating is formed of a layer of thermosetting resin coating the surface of the granular aggregate and a layer of thermoplastic resin coating the thermosetting resin layer.

3. (Previously presented) The resin-coated sand according to claim 2, wherein the coating consists essentially of:

a layer of a cured thermosetting resin coating the surface of the granular aggregate, and

a layer of thermoplastic resin coating the surface of the cured thermosetting resin layer.

4.&5. Cancelled.

6. (Previously presented) The resin-coated sand according to claim 1 or 2, wherein the amount of the thermoplastic resin is from 0.01 to 1.0 parts by mass with respect to 100 parts by mass of the granular aggregate.

7. Cancelled.

8. (Original) The resin-coated sand according to claim 1 or 2, wherein a particle size of the granular aggregate is not less than 10 μm and not more than 300 μm.

9. (Original) The resin-coated sand according to claim 1 or 2, wherein the thermosetting resin is at least one of phenolic resin, melamine resin and urea resin.

10. (Original) The resin-coated sand according to claim 1 or 2, wherein a softening point of the thermosetting resin is not lower than 70°C and not higher than 130°C.

11. (Previously presented) The resin-coated sand according to claim 1 or 2, wherein the amount of thermosetting resin is from 1.0 to 4.0 parts by mass with respect to 100 parts by mass of the granular aggregate.

12. (Previously presented) The resin-coated sand according to claim 1 or 2, wherein the thermoplastic resin has a mass-average molecular weight (relative to polystyrene standards) as measured by gel permeation chromatography within a range from 2,000 to 10,000.

13. (Previously presented) The resin-coated sand according to claim 1 or 2, further comprising calcium stearate added to the sand as a flow improver.

14. (Previously presented) The resin-coated sand according to claim 1 or 2, further comprising metal powder of at least one of iron, copper, zinc, aluminum and nickel added to the sand.

15. (Previously presented) The resin-coated sand according to claim 1 or 2, further comprising a metal oxide powder of at least one of iron, copper, zinc, aluminum, nickel, cobalt and titanium added to the sand.

16. (Previously presented) The resin-coated sand according to claim 1 or 2, further comprising as a silane coupling agent at least one of aminosilane and epoxysilane added to the sand.

17. (Previously presented) A resin-coated sand comprising:

a refractory granular aggregate; and

a coating formed on the surface of the granular aggregate,

wherein the coating consists essentially of a layer of thermosetting resin on the outer surface of the granular aggregate and a layer of thermoplastic resin of at least one of polyethylene, polypropylene, polyethylene glycol, polyamide, polymethyl methacrylate and polystyrene coated on an outer surface of the thermosetting resin layer.

18. - 31. Cancelled.

32. (New) The resin-coated sand according to claim 1 or 17 wherein the thermoplastic resin is at least one of polyethylene, polypropylene, polyethylene glycol, and polyamide.